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THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine
of Western Ornithology

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Cooper Ornithological Club

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Edmund Heller has embarked upon a third expedition to British East Africa, in pursuit of big game. This time he is one of a party equipped with a string of cow ponies, a pack of bear dogs, and a moving picture machine. It would appear that an extreme of exciting adventure will be one pretty certain outcome of such a combination! However, Mr. Heller is the naturalist of the party, and will collect and prepare as scientific specimens, as much of the spoils as possible for the National Museum. He will particularly try to obtain material supplementary to the Roosevelt collections, which are the basis of an extended scientific report in course of preparation by Mr. Heller.

Mr. Fred M. Dille, a pioneer Colorado naturalist, has been appointed special warden by the U. S. Biological Survey, to investigate ornithological conditions in the vicinity of the Minidoka and Deer Flat reclamation projects in Idaho, and the Cold Spring project in Oregon. He assumes his new duties at once.

Mr. W. L. Burnett, who has long been identified with biological work in Colorado, has recently been appointed Curator of the Museum of the State Agricultural College, at Ft. Collins, Colorado. His new position will enable him to devote his entire time to biological work, and the college is to be congratulated upon securing the services of a man so emi-

nently equipped for the work he is to undertake. Mr. Burnett assumes his new position June 1st.

A few of the older members of the Cooper Club may be interested to know that Mr. H. B. Bailey, one of the founders of the Nuttall Club, American Ornithologists' Union, and Linnaean Society, has become an active worker in the ranks of ornithologists and oologists once more. Since his collection of eggs went into the Museum of Natural History in New York some years ago, he has done little active work along these lines. Having lately retired from business he has taken up his old hobbies and has joined forces with his son in a new Bailey Collection and Library. He left some time ago for Florida on an extensive trip after specimens.

Mr. Alex Wetmore, who has been at the Kansas State University for the past year, has left Lawrence, Kansas, for Seattle, Washington, where he is to join Mr. A. C. Bent and Rollo Beck in an extended collecting trip through the Aleutian Islands. Mr. Wetmore joins the party as a representative of the Biological Survey.

Mr. E. R. Warren left his home at Colorado Springs about the middle of May, for an extensive collecting trip through central and northern Colorado. Mr. Warren is thoroughly equipped with a sea-worthy prairie schooner, and expects to be in the field until fall.

According to our critic (T. S. P.) in April *Bird-Lore* it would appear that the illustrations in *THE CONDOR* have improved greatly since we dropped simplified spelling!

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE HOME-LIFE OF THE SPOONBILL, THE STORK AND SOME HERONS, by BENTLEY BETHAM, F. Z. S. [Witherby & Co., London, 1910, pp. i-viii, 1-47, pl. 1-31. Price 6 s. net.]

Four species are treated, the Spoonbill, White Stork, Common Heron and Purple Heron. They were studied and photographed from blinds placed in marsh or tree top, as the case might be, and with what would appear to be most gratifying success. The photographs are beautiful and instructive, conveying much information of a sort that would be difficult to obtain from the best written accounts, while the accompanying text is couched in a most attractive style, and, though but a comparatively limited space is given to each species, contains a great deal of very interesting life history. The description of the actions of the young Purple Herons, deserting their nests in the tree-tops at the approach of danger, and taking refuge in the tangles of underbrush on the ground, each returning to his own home when the danger has passed, is of great interest; additional traits of this species as well as

of the others are related in an equally entertaining style.

If any criticism be made of the manner of production of the book it would be to point out the fact that, with the exception of the Purple Heron, the species treated are nowhere alluded to by their scientific names, thus precluding the possibility of these truly valuable contributions to their life histories being anywhere cited in literature. A more definite statement as to the geographic locality of the colonies observed would also be desirable.—H. S. S.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The December meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club was held on Thursday evening, December 29, 1910, in Room 526 Merchants Trust Building. In the absence of President Morcom, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Lelande, with the following members present: Messrs Dawson, Howard, Zahn, Willett, Linton, Osburn, Antonin Jay, Davis, Robertson, Fischer, Miller, Owen, Lelande, Shepardson, Blaine, Tracy, Howell, Chambers and Law, and with Dr. Guy C. Rich as a visitor.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The following applications for membership were presented, Dr. Guy C. Rich, Hollywood, proposed by W. Lee Chambers, and Wilfred Smith, Santa Monica, proposed by O. J. Zahn. On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Zahn, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Mr. Fred Granville, proposed at the last meeting.

The Secretary presented the draft of the new Constitution proposed by the Northern Division, and on motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and duly carried, it was ordered referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Robertson, Davis and Law for approval; said members to have the power of acting for the Club. On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Robertson, and duly carried, the nomination of officers for 1911 as made at the last meeting, and withdrawn because made one month too soon, were sustained. They are as follows: President, G. Frean Morcom, nominated by Mr. Willett; Vice President, H. J. Lelande, nominated by Mr. Shepardson; Treasurer, W. Lee Chambers, nominated by Mr. Willett; Secretary, J. E. Law, nominated by Mr. Osburn.

The Club then enjoyed a very thorough description of his work by Mr. W. Leon Dawson, outlining the work already accomplished on the Birds of Washington, and exhibiting a

great many of the plates used; also thoroughly detailing the proposed work on the Birds of California. This Mr. Dawson expects to complete in 1916, and to devote his time exclusively to its production. When completed it will be one of the most ambitious among bird works, and a handsome addition to any library.

Mr. Willett, who has in charge the compiling of the new list of the Southern California Birds, asks especially for notes from all those having winter records of the Hudsonian Curlew, Avocet, Stilt, Semipalmated Plover and Marbled Godwit. Adjourned. J. E. LAW, *Secretary*.

JANUARY.—The January meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club was held on Thursday evening, January 26, 1911, in the office of H. J. Lelande, 246 Wilcox Building, Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by President Morcom, with the following members present: Messrs Ingersoll, Rich, Howard, Lelande, Robertson, Howell, Appleton, Willett, Chambers, Dawson, Miller, Linton, Zahn, VanRossem, Shepardson, Blaine and Law.

The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. The following applications for membership were presented: Orland Beekman, Sespe, Cal., proposed by Lawrence Peyton; and Olive Thorne Miller, Los Angeles, proposed by A. B. Howell. On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Howard, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Dr. Guy C. Rich and Mr. Wilfred Smith, whose names were presented at the December meeting.

On motion by Mr. Zahn, seconded by Mr. Howard, and duly carried, Mr. Robertson was instructed to cast separately the unanimous ballot of those present electing for 1911 the officers nominated at the last meeting, as follows: President, G. Frean Morcom; Vice-President, H. J. Lelande; Treasurer, W. Lee Chambers; Secretary, J. E. Law.

Mr. Robertson, as Chairman of the committee on the Constitution, read the proposed new Constitution, clause by clause. Each one was discussed at length by the members present, and several suggestions made which the committee was instructed to embody into carefully worded clauses, and present for the approval of the Southern Division at the next meeting.

The Secretary read a paper by Mr. C. I. Clay, of Eureka, California, entitled "The Spotted Owl in Northern California." This recited Mr. Clay's very unique experience with the Spotted Owl, and its weird night notes, while camping in the wilds of Humboldt County. Adjourned. J. E. LAW, *Secretary*.